

The Alexandria Gazette

FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 29.

A number of persons owning farms in the neighborhood of this place, from which the fences have all been destroyed, and no crops planted, have turned their attention to the dairy business, and keeping fine cows, pasturing on the vacant fields, now send considerable quantities of milk, cream and butter to this market. A large supply of milk and cream is required for the ice cream makers and vendors. The ice cream stands, apart from those in Confectionary stores are to be found in all parts of the town—and the vendors carry it around in their coolers, supplying families and others; which is a great convenience.

The destruction and desolation at Fredericksburg, by the operations of war, are said to be very great. Many of the citizens of that place have lost everything they possessed—but they still cling to their old homes.

The Maryland Episcopal Convention adjourned yesterday, having finished all the business before it. The session was a harmonious one.

The Richmond Whig of the 23d says:—"General Gustavus W. Smith has been chosen President of the Etowah Iron Mining Company, Bartow county, Georgia, who have one among the finest works of the kind in the country. It is said that in order to secure his services the company transferred to him stock to the amount of twenty-five thousand dollars, besides voting him an annual salary of seven thousand dollars.

The Northern journals contain numerous extracts from Richmond papers of the 25th inst., which are mostly in reference to the state of affairs about Vicksburg, and, generally, expressing their belief that, from what so far has taken place, that city is not likely to be captured at present.

It is said that the value of the ship Commonwealth, recently captured by the Confederate vessels Alabama and Florida, is estimated at \$400,000—that of the Onida, also captured, at fully half a million. Among the vessels destroyed was the bark Henrietta, belonging to Baltimore, and bound to Rio de Janeiro.—This is the first Baltimore vessel destroyed by the Confederate cruisers.

The New York Democratic Central Committee have adopted resolutions in favor of peace on the basis of a restoration of the Union under the Constitution, against the use of military authority in arrests outside the lines of warlike operations, and endorsing Gov. Seymour's letter to the Albany meeting.

All the officers of the U. S. gunboat Indiana, captured by the Confederates in February last, in Red river, have been exchanged, and returned to Washington.

The newspapers report a slight skirmish between some of Moseby's cavalry and an advance guard of the Federal forces, near Fairfax Court House, on the 26th.

Wm. B. Compton, of the Confederate Army, recently convicted by Court Martial, as a spy, and to have been hung to-day, has been respited by the President of the United States.

The number of restaurants, in town, seem rather to increase than diminish—and they appear to be patronized. The stands in the open air, or sheds along the streets for vending edibles of all kinds, are more numerous than ever. Cakes and pies have taken the place of oysters, and instead of brandy and whiskey, cider and soda water are the popular drinks.

The report that the French have abandoned the siege of Puebla is now contradicted. It is hard to get correct news from Mexico.

The New School Presbyterian General Assembly have adopted resolutions in favor of prosecuting the war, and against secession, &c.

A large quantity of quinine and morphine, on the way South, has recently been captured at Louisville, Ky.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

A Scotch physician, Dr. Smart, has announced an invention which he asserts, has never failed in his practice to prevent the disfigurement consequent in small-pox known as "pitting." The application consists of a solution of india-rubber in chloroform, which is painted over the face (and neck in women) when the eruption has become fully developed. When the chloroform has evaporated, which it readily does, there is left a thin elastic film of india-rubber over the face.

A movement has been set on foot in the city of London to relieve the distress in the cotton manufacturing districts by means of emigration to the colony of Victoria, Australia.

Archbishop Cullen, of Dublin, has issued a pastoral letter to the clergy in his diocese condemning freemasonry, and instructing them to forbid their parishioners to countenance in any way the meetings of the institution.

For the week ending May 8 there was received at Liverpool 16,384 bales and 598 bags of cotton—mostly from India. New York furnished twenty-two bales of the number specified.

The restoration of Goethe's house in Frankfurt has been commenced. The object of the Goethe Stift is to render the house what it was in 1749, when the poet was born in it, and what it remained during the years he passed in it as a child.

Doctor N. Davis, author of "Carthage and its Remains" and "Ruined Cities of Africa," has just set out for Abyssinia. It is said that he has made a discovery which is to realize a fortune for himself and to be of practical and scientific value. He travels at the expense of a company.

Five Confederates and one Union soldier will suffer death to-day, under the sentence of court martial. The following are their names:—William B. Compton, Confederate army, convicted as a spy at Fort McHenry, Baltimore (since reprieved); Thomas Perkins, alias Hawkins, spy, to be hung on Johnson's Island, Lake Erie, near Sandusky City, Ohio; John R. Lyle, spy, to be hung on Johnson's Island; George P. Sims, spy, to be hung on Johnson's Island; George S. Burgess, spy, to be hung on Johnson's Island; John C. Shore, of Company F, 109 Illinois Regiment and insubordination, to be executed on Johnson's Island.

A private in a company from Reading, Pa., mustered out a few days since, who alleged that his captain had cheated him and subjected him to many unnecessary indignities, took the opportunity before leaving Harrisburg depot, being for the first time in nine months on a perfect equality with the officer, to give the latter a receipt in full for all old grudges! The officer carried home painted optics.

The Siege of Vicksburg.
[Correspondence of the Philadelphia Ledger.]
CAIRO, May 27.—The steamer Imperial arrived at Memphis from below, on Monday morning. From Captain Stevens, a passenger, we learn the following:—

The fighting at Vicksburg on Friday was desperate. Gen. Grant charged the fortifications and took some of them, but the Confederates rallied and retaken them. There was much hand-to-hand fighting.

Captain Stevens says the Federal loss on that day in killed and wounded was about 5000.

The Confederates used hand grenades when the Federal forces attempted to storm the works.

It is reported that one of General Banks' corps had arrived at Warrenton, to reinforce General Grant.

MEMPHIS, May 28.—The first load of wounded from General Grant's army has arrived. Among these are Colonel Maavendy, Colonel McGinnis, and Colonel Lecher, of the 11th Indiana, wounds severe but not dangerous.

In the severe battle, the Eleventh and Twenty-fourth Indiana lost about 250 men each. Capt. Holman, of the Twenty-fourth, is killed. General Hovey's Indiana division at Champion Hill, maintained the brunt of the fight against an overwhelming force of Confederates under Joe Johnston. Vicksburg is invested on all sides. Gen. Carr and Lieut. Col. Cameron, of the Thirty-fourth Indiana, are reported killed.

Lieutenant Colonel—Twenty fourth Indiana, had his right hand shattered while grasping the colors of his regiment and endeavoring to rally his men under a murderous fire.

CHICAGO, May 28.—A special despatch from Cairo says General Lee, of Kansas, confirms the report that the two outer works of the Confederates were taken in Friday's attack on the fortifications. The battle was sanguinary, and the Union loss severe. The Confederates fought with coolness and desperation, reserving their fire until the Federal forces came within murderous range. They were driven back, however, by main force into the last line of intrenchments. This was the situation of affairs on Friday evening.

Jackson, Miss., has been destroyed, and the Union army which occupied that place are now acting as a reinforcement for Grant.—When the boat left on Saturday the mortar boats were throwing occasional shells. The Federals have captured the batteries both above and below the town.

NEW YORK, May 28.—The Commercial of this evening, says:—

"There can be but little doubt that General Grant has received ample reinforcements from a certain quarter, and that by the 25th at the latest, he was amply prepared to move successfully on the Confederate works.

"New Orleans has been secured from any invasion by the arrival of reinforcements."

MOBILE, May 25.—A special dispatch to the Evening News, dated Jackson, May 24th (Sunday,) says that firing was heard until nine o'clock this morning. No report of artillery has been heard since that hour.

This morning the Twentieth Mississippi (mounted) Regiment dashed into Raymond, capturing four hundred prisoners. Fourteen have been brought to this city. The rest, being sick and wounded, were paroled.

The Washington Republican Extra of this morning states that a dispatch from General Hooker's army says that the Confederate pickets halloed across the Rappahannock, that Vicksburg had been taken, and that General Grant had been killed in the assault—no reliance is put in the report.

The European files, by the Asia, come down to the 16th inst. The London Journals all have more or less to say on the progress of the war, the non-appearance of the slightest prospect of peace, to arrests at the West, etc. Speculation, however, turned principally upon the probable results of General Hooker's advance across the Rappahannock, with a view to the capture of Richmond.